

natural uranium, which consists of two isotopes, U-238 (99.3 per cent) and U-235 (0.7 per cent), to be slightly enriched in the U-235 isotope to maintain a reaction. This enrichment is typically up to 2 per cent or 3 per cent. Very high enrichment of U-235 leads to weapons usable material. Internationally 20 per cent enrichment has been designated as a cut-off point and Canada exercises a prior consent right over enrichment beyond 20 per cent U-235. Since high enrichment for nuclear fuel cycle activities is relatively rare, the focus of attention has been on reprocessing and plutonium use.

*v) Physical protection*

Since all countries regard matters of physical security as falling strictly within their national jurisdiction, physical protection is a sensitive question. In implementing this requirement, Canada seeks from its nuclear partners a commitment that they will apply levels of physical protection to nuclear material which as a minimum would satisfy the recommendations of the IAEA as they are set out in document INFCIRC 225 (Rev 1).